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Subject: Westlake News Coverage

<http://www.kmov.com/news/local/EPA-holding-first-public-meeting-to-discuss-Bridgeton-Landfill-212882181.html>

MARYLAND HEIGHTS (KMOV) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting on Tuesday to address concerns about a Bridgeton landfill that contains radioactive waste.

EPA officials will be on hand to discuss the agency's ongoing work at the West Lake Landfill.

Homeowners, environmental groups and some lawmakers have concerns about groundwater contamination and air quality. The EPA has insisted the radioactive material is contained and safe.

But in the last few months it has done testing on groundwater and deployed a plane to fly over the site and attempt to detect radioactive substances.

EPA reps will talk about the results during the meeting at Pattonville High School beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The EPA's regional administrator Karl Brooks and Missouri environmental officials will be in attendance at the meeting.

Some groups, including the Sierra Club, have called for an emergency removal of the radioactive material that's been at the site for decades. The EPA has so far said that is not necessary.

https://www.stlbeacon.org/#!/content/31571/bridgeton_west_lake_landfill_062413

St. Louis Beacon - Activists gear up for EPA, state hearings on controversial landfills - Owners of the Bridgeton Landfill – beset by a persistent odor, an underground “hot spot” and a nearby radioactive site – are likely prepared for an earful of complaints and concerns at Tuesday night's hearing hosted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The session, to begin at 6:30 p.m. at Pattonville High School, appears aimed at reassuring nearby residents concerned that their health has been at risk. Although the hearing is to focus on the neighboring West Lake landfill, the public debate has linked the two sites, and isn't expected to differentiate.

Map of Bridgeton and West Lake landfills, with 'hot spot' and radioactive area marked Meanwhile, workers report significant progress in installing a new “cap” on the Bridgeton Landfill made of ethylene vinyl alcohol, which the operators hope will resolve many of the problems – in particular, the smell, which has been so bad at times that people residing nearby have been given temporary housing elsewhere.

The latest update from Republic Services, which owns the Bridgeton Landfill, reports that the cap has been installed over at least seven acres.

Workers also have been trying to remove the underground pillars that some believe have contributed to the underground smoldering – Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster calls it a “fire” – that has reached temperatures of over 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

Koster filed suit against Republic this spring, as part of an effort to resolve the problem with the Bridgeton Landfill. A successful cleanup could resolve Republic's legal problems.

However, controversy is likely to remain over the adjacent West Lake Landfill, which has housed radioactive material since the 1970s.

The EPA hearing comes several weeks after the agency released the results of an aerial investigation, which agency officials say showed that the radioactivity was contained, and that there was no radioactive risk. The agency reports it also is monitoring the groundwater.

Meanwhile, many residents and environmental groups say they fear that the underground fire could reach the radioactive site, which is at least 1,000 feet away, Koster and others say.

Environmental groups to highlight landfill concerns

Environmental groups have a number of concerns, and plan to air them before the hearing. Tuesday morning, the Sierra Club, Missouri Coalition for the Environment and Labadie Environmental Organization plan to hold a press conference downtown “urging protection of Missouri’s waterways from current and proposed waste landfills along the Mississippi, Meramec and Missouri Rivers.”

Organizers say the press conference is prompted by Tuesday’s EPA hearing at Pattonville High School, and by another hearing to be held at the same time in Union, Mo. The latter, hosted by the Missouri Public Service Commission, is to discuss a plan by Ameren Missouri to build a landfill to store coal ash waste generated by the Labadie coal-fired power plant in Franklin County.

The environmental groups note that the coal ash landfill would be in the floodplains of the Missouri River.

The organizations note in a joint statement that “many toxic landfills lie in the floodplains of the Mississippi, Missouri and Meramec Rivers in the St. Louis metropolitan area.”

Tuesday’s news conference, they say, is to call for “urgent action to clean up current waste sites in the floodplains, and prevent the construction of dangerous and risky new landfills.”

St. Louis Post Dispatch –

EPA to discuss West Lake Landfill testing Environmental Protection Agency officials will discuss results of additional testing at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site at a public meeting Tuesday night at Pattonville High School. The groundwater tests and radiation screening on the agenda are part of the EPA’s re-examination of a five-year-old plan for managing radioactive waste buried at the site. It is the second meeting hosted by the EPA this year to brief the public on activity at West Lake. The first gathering, in January, drew more than 200 people, most of whom disagree with the EPA’s proposed remedy. Many north St. Louis County residents and environmental groups want the Army Corps of Engineers to take over the site and the contaminated material removed from the unlined landfill situated less than two miles from the Missouri River. The West Lake issue has generated even more scrutiny in recent months because of a smoldering fire deep within the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill. The fire has produced foul odors that led to a lawsuit by Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster. It also has triggered fears about what would happen if the mass of smoldering waste reached the radioactive material at West Lake. Thousands of area residents have organized and are sharing information on the situation via Facebook and vow to keep pressure on the EPA to change its stance. The group also has attracted the attention of environmental crusader Erin Brockovich. So far, the EPA has indicated no inclination to change its stance, insisting that West Lake poses no danger to people who live and work in the area. The contamination buried at West Lake is a product of Mallinckrodt Chemical Works’ World War II-era uranium processing operations. In 2008, the EPA approved a plan to manage the contaminated areas by installing an earthen cap and a system of groundwater monitors. A backlash from residents and elected officials led the EPA to reconsider the decision. The agency ordered a supplemental feasibility study completed in 2011 that examined two other options, including excavation and disposal of the radiological material at a licensed disposal facility in Utah. Even more tests were ordered by a national EPA review board that must sign off on the EPA’s decision because the cost of the proposed remedial work exceeds \$25 million. Those tests include rounds of additional groundwater sampling and an aerial

radiological survey. The first round of groundwater testing was completed last year. Though some samples showed radium levels above the maximum contaminant level for groundwater, the EPA said such detections were “isolated and sporadic” and they found no plumes of contaminated groundwater migrating from the site. The EPA last month announced results of an aerial radiological survey of the West Lake site. The agency’s report confirmed that surface gamma radiation is present only within fenced areas and poses no health risk to people who live and work in the area. Critics say the federal government has a moral obligation to excavate radioactive waste, and are unswayed by results of the EPA’s recent tests. They have posed new questions they want agency officials to answer at Tuesday’s meeting.

EPA West Lake Landfill meeting

WHO: EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks and other representatives from state and federal agencies.

WHAT: A public meeting to discuss results of a radiation screening and groundwater sampling at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site.

WHERE: Pattonville High School Auditorium, 2497 Creve Coeur Road, Maryland Heights

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/epa-to-discuss-west-lake-landfill-testing/article_5174144e-c890-5e6c-9da6-bf3bf87d0c72.html

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